

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a

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PTQ7284

E9

PAGE 01 CARACA 03606 01 OF 02 080156Z
ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W

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P 072129Z DEC 01
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4225
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003606

NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO
OAS FOR SHANNON

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PAGE 02 CARACA 03606 01 OF 02 080156Z

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PINR, PREL, EIND, ELAB, EPET, ETRD, VE
SUBJECT: THE SHUTDOWN Q DECEMBER 10 STOPPAGE IRREVERSIBLE

REF: A. CARACAS 003517
B. CARACAS 003392
C. CARACAS 003421
D. CARACAS 003581

1. SUMMARY: FEDECAMARAS (FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE)
PRESIDENT PEDRO CARMONA ANNOUNCED THE DECEMBER 10 WORK
STOPPAGE IS IRREVERSIBLEQ DESPITE RECENT SOFTENING OF
PRESIDENT CHAVEZQS RHETORIC. HOWEVER, CARMONA NOTED HIS
REPUTATION FOR CONCILIATION AND SAID HE SEEKS ONLY A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 DEC 2011
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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CONFRONTATION OF IDEAS, NOT A CONFRONTATION IN THE STREETS.
END SUMMARY.

STATESMAN-LIKE CARMONA STRESSES NON-VIOLENCE

2. CARMONA ADDRESSED THE VENEZUELAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (VENAMCHAM) DECEMBER 6, AND GAVE A WIDELY COVERED PRESS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 7. IN BOTH APPEARANCES, CARMONA DELIVERED CALM AND STATESMAN-LIKE SPEECHES EXPLAINING THE WORK STOPPAGE WILL NOT BE VIOLENT, BUT WILL BE ONLY A QCONFRONTATION OF IDEAS.Q FEDECAMARAS HAS NOT PLANNED ANY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION FOR DECEMBER 10, BUT SAID IT SHOULD BE A DAY TO QSTAY HOME FROM WORK.Q

3. AT THE VENAMCHAM EVENT, CARMONA RECEIVED AN EXTENDED
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PAGE 03 CARACA 03606 01 OF 02 080156Z
STANDING OVATION, AND WAS INTRODUCED AS QTHE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT TIME IN VENEZUELA.Q AS WITH ALL OF HIS RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCES, THE PRESS SWARMED CARMONA, GIVING HIM AT LEAST THE AURA OF A POLITICAL FIGURE AND PROVIDING SOME FOCUS TO WHAT WERE DISPARATE OPPOSITION VOICES. [REDACTED]

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SUPPORT FOR THE SHUTDOWN

4. THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) ANNOUNCED THAT THEY SUPPORT THE DECEMBER 10 SHUTDOWN, BUT WOULD NOT HOLD ANY PUBLIC MARCH OR DEMONSTRATION ON DECEMBER 10. HOWEVER, CTV SAID IF THE GOV DOES NOT LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS THEY WILL CONSIDER FURTHER NATIONAL STRIKES.

5. THE TRANSPORTATION WORKERS, BANK EMPLOYEES, AND HEALTH WORKERS ALSO ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR THE SHUTDOWN. LOCAL GASOLINE SERVICE STATIONS HAVE NOT DECIDED IF THEY WILL CLOSE. ALTHOUGH THE GOV ANNOUNCED THE CARACAS METRO WILL REMAIN OPEN, SUPPORT FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR (REPRESENTING TAXIS AND BUSES) COULD GUARANTEE A TRUE SHUTDOWN OF CARACAS AND OTHER METROPOLITAN AREAS.

6. U.S. CORPORATIONS CONTACTED BY POST REPORTED A MIX OF PLANNED ACTIONS. SOME WILL CLOSE AND OTHERS WILL OPEN BUT MONITOR THE SITUATION. THE U.S. CORPORATIONS POINTED TO SECURITY CONCERNS AND TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES FOR WORKERS AS REASONS FOR CLOSING. CITING CONCERN FOR INVOLVEMENT IN DOMESTIC POLITICS, THOSE THAT EXPECT TO BE

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PAGE 04 CARACA 03606 01 OF 02 080156Z
CLOSED FOR THE SHUTDOWN WILL AVOID ANY PUBLIC SHOW OF
SUPPORT.

7. FEDEINDUSTRIA, THE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY (CONSISTING
PRIMARILY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES), IS THE MOST
VOCAL MEMBER OF FEDECAMARAS NOT TO SUPPORT THE SHUTDOWN.
THEY CONTINUE TO CALL FOR QDIALOGUE,Q AND THEIR NON-SUPPORT
IS MENTIONED PROMINENTLY BY CHAVEZ.

FEDECAMARAS MAY TALK TO GOV, BUT ONLY AFTER SHUTDOWN

8. RESPONDING TO RECENT CALLS FOR DIALOGUE FROM CHAVEZ,
CARMONA SAID THE DECEMBER 10 WORK STOPPAGE IS QIRREVERSIBLE,
THE TRAIN IS MOVING AND Q WE CANQT APPLY THE BRAKES, EVEN
WHEN THEY SAY THERE IS A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AMENDS.Q
CARMONA INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH CHAVEZ AFTER
DECEMBER 10, BUT WARNED THAT MERE PROMISES WOULD NOT
SUFFICE. ONLY POSITIVE ACTS TOWARDS REFORMING THE DECREE
LAWS WILL LEAD TO A DIALOGUE.

9. CARMONA SAID AT LEAST EIGHT LAWS HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED TO
START A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION WITH THE GOV. HE DID NOT
SPECIFY THE EIGHT LAWS, BUT CARMONA ATTACKED THE COASTAL
LAW, LAND LAW, NOTARIES LAW, HYDROCARBON LAW, FISHERIES LAW,

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UNCLASSIFIED PTQ6945

PAGE 01 CARACA 03606 02 OF 02 072209Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	COME-00	CTME-00
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	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
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	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W	

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P 072129Z DEC 01
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4226
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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PAGE 02 CARACA 03606 02 OF 02 072209Z

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PINR, PREL, EIND, ELAB, EPET, ETRD, VE
SUBJECT: THE SHUTDOWN Q DECEMBER 10 STOPPAGE IRREVERSIBLE

TOURISM LAW, AND THE TRANSPORTATION LAW AS THE MOST DAMAGING
TO THE ECONOMY. WHILE CARMONA REFERENCED THE DECREE LAWS,
HIS SPEECH EMPHASIZED A BROADER ATTACK ON CHAVEZQS POLICIES,
DECRYING CHAVEZQS TENDENCIES TOWARDS A STATIST, CENTRIST,
AND INTERVENTIONIST GOVERNMENT.

B1

CHAVEZ PLANS QAIR SHOWQ IN CARACAS FOR DECEMBER 10

11. CHAVEZ WILL USE THE CONVENIENT EXCUSE OF QNATIONAL AIR
FORCE DAYQ TO STAGE AN AIR SHOW OF MILITARY PLANES ABOVE
CARACAS. THE EVENT, WHICH IS NORMALLY HELD AT THE AIR FORCE
BASE IN MARACAY, HAS BEEN PORTRAYED BY MEDIA AS A
PROVOCATION AND/OR SHOW OF FORCE.

B1

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PAGE 03 CARACA 03606 02 OF 02 072209Z

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B1

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